

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03

SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 232250Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893

INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR EUROPE

REF: STATE 096110

1. DURING JULY 19 COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION RODRIGUEZ TORRES, EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR RAISED SUBJECT OF AIR EUROPE PERMIT. RODRIGUEZ' EXPLANATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT

ISSUANCE COINCIDED WITH INFORMATION GIVEN IN PARA 1 REFTEL. HE SAID THAT TICKET SALES WILL BE HANDLED BY TOURIST AGENTS IN THE U.S. ONLY AND PRESUMED THAT ALMOST

ALL PASSENGERS WILL BE U.S. NATIONALS

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TRAVELING ON GROUP TOURS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, HE

ADDED THAT MEXICAN NATIONALS COULD PURCHASE TICKETS AT AIRPORT COUNTER IN TIJUANA BUT DOUBTED THAT SUCH SALES WOULD AMOUNT TO MUCH.

2. REFERRING TO U.S. CONCERN EXPRESSED IN OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF MAY 10, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT NOTE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO HIM HAD IT BEEN SENT NINE MONTHS AGO BEFORE ORIGINAL PERMIT WAS ISSUED. HE INDICATED THAT AT THIS STAGE HE COULD ONLY SEEK WAYS TO DELAY INAUGURATION OF SERVICE BY SLOWING DOWN BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS. HE OBSERVED

HOPEFULLY THAT SINCE SUMMER SEASON WAS ALREADY

ADVANCED AIR EUROPE MIGHT WELL GO BANKRUPT.

3. IN REPLY TO SUGGESTION THAT USE OF LAKER AIRCRAFT MIGHT CONSTITUTE AN OFF-ROUTED VIOLATION OF ANY MEXICAN-

BRITISH BILATERAL THAT MIGHT EXIST, RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT MEXICO HAS NO BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BRITISH. HE SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT U.S. DENY AIR EUROPE RIGHT TO OVERFLY AND REFUEL AT BANGOR. HE SAID THAT MEXICO WOULD NOT OBJECT IF U.S. WERE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. RODRIGUEZ WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT CHICAGO CONVENTION GIVE OVERFLIGHT AND NON-TRAFFIC FREEDOM TO NON-SCHEDULED AIRLINES ONLY.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT WOULD APPEAR TO EMBASSY THAT

ARTICLE 1, SECTION 1 OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE TRANSIT AGREEMENT WOULD PREVENT U.S. FROM TAKING STEPS SUGGESTED BY RODRIGUEZ, WE NOTE WITH INTEREST HIS CLEAR INDICATION

THAT MEXICAN AVIATION AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT OBJECT IF

U.S. WERE TO FIND A MEANS TO STOP THIS OPERATION. JOVA

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